

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 27, 2003, claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § ¹²(b) as being anticipated by German Published Application 198 38 390 (Dietz, et al.). In the Dietz, et al. reference, the examination volume within a magnetic resonance scanner is cylindrically surrounded by a sound absorbing material 18, such as Foam material. The Examiner stated that this component corresponded to the sound insulation material of Independent claim 1 of the present application, and stated that this element divides the installation space into two spaces which are acoustically insulated from each other.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to make clear that the sound insulation divides the installation room, in which the first and second component groups are installed, into two spaces of the installation room which are acoustically insulated from each other, with the first component group being installed in the first of these spaces and the second component group being installed in a first of these spaces and the second component group being installed in a second of these spaces.

The sound insulating material disclosed in the Dietz, et al. reference is disposed in the scanner apparatus itself, and moreover, is only in the form of a cylinder which surrounds the tunnel of the scanner, into which the patient is introduced for an examination. Therefore, even though this foam layer can be considered to be disposed between a portion of the scanner and another portion of the scanner, it does not "divide" the scanner into two spaces that are acoustically insulated from each other, and it clearly does not perform any function at all in terms of dividing an installation room into two spaces, in which the scanner is disposed.

Although the foam layer in the Dietz, et al. reference does decrease the sound transmission from components such as the basic field magnet and the basic gradient coil system to the examination space, there are still other avenues for sound transmission which are not acoustically insulated by the foam material, and therefore the foam material does not “divide” even the scanner into two acoustically insulated spaces, and much less an installation room in which the scanner is disposed.

The amendments to claim 1 clarify this structure, and the Dietz, et al. reference clearly does not disclose all of the elements of independent claim 1 as arranged and operating in that claim, and therefore does not anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claim 5 adds further structure to the novel combination of claim 1, and therefore is not anticipated by the Dietz, et al. reference for the same reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Claims 2 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dietz, et al. further in view of Dean, et al. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dietz, et al. in view of Dean, et al., further in view of Oppelt. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dietz, et al. in view of Furukawa.

For the reasons discussed above, the Dietz, et al. reference does not disclose or suggest sound insulation which divides an installation room into two acoustically insulated spaces, with different groups of components being respectively composed in the two spaces. All of the dependant claims rejected based on the above combinations of references depend from independent claim 1, and therefore, incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 therein. None of those dependent claims

would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, for the reasons discussed above, regardless of the respective teachings of the various of secondary references.

New claims 11 and 12 have been added, which are submitted to be patentable over the teachings of the references of record for the same reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

All claims of the application are therefore submitted to be condition for allowance, and early reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Submitted by,

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